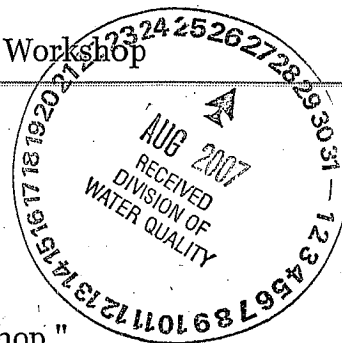


**Ryan Maughan - Comment Letter - September 13, 2007 Irrigated Lands Workshop**

9/13/07 Workshop  
Irrigated Lands Program  
Deadline: 9/4/07 Noon

**From:** Lauren Gwin <laurengwin@gmail.com>  
**To:** <rmaughan@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 8/27/2007 8:25 PM  
**Subject:** Comment Letter - September 13, 2007 Irrigated Lands Program Joint Workshop

Ryan Maughan, Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 15th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814  
rmaughan@waterboards.ca.gov.



Re: Comment Letter - September 13, 2007 Irrigated Lands Program Joint Workshop."

Dear State and Regional Water Board Members:

Thank you for giving the public the chance to comment on the Central Valley's Conditional Waiver program for Irrigated Agriculture.

This waiver just isn't a good idea. We in California are supposed to be protected by some of the strongest water quality regulations in the country, but with such a waiver, irrigators don't have to follow the rules. And the consequences are severe.

Run-off water from irrigated fields carries a toxic mix of fertilizers and pesticides into the Central Valley's waterways. From there, the toxins seep into the aquifers, contaminating the groundwater and exposing the more than 40,000 Central Valley residents to unsafe levels of contaminants in their drinking water. Central Valley drinking water sources are the worst polluted in the whole state. I have learned that more than 20 percent of all community water systems in Tulare County cannot meet basic safe drinking water laws, almost entirely because of nitrate contamination of groundwater sources.

This isn't right, and it just isn't legal. Yes, irrigated agriculture is very important to our state - I eat plenty of produce out of the Central Valley - but it should not be at the expense of public health, especially in small, rural communities without the political clout or financial resources to protect themselves. I may not live in the Central Valley, but I believe it is critical to give Californians who DO live there the benefit of the water quality regulations that we in this state should all have, by rights.

PLEASE act today to stop waiving regulatory requirements. The permits issued to irrigated agriculture need to protect our drinking water sources and other beneficial uses.

Thank you,

Lauren Gwin  
Berkeley, CA 94703